



Yamuna - the sacred River



Who is Yamuna?

Born in the lineage of Sage Kashyapa with Sun God (Surya) as her father, Yamuna also pronounced as Jamuna the Vedic river is a major tributary of Ganga. Because she is sister of Lord Yama the God of death she is called as Yamuna. Standing as a living witness to the historical and puranic happenings in India, holy river Yamuna like Ganga is equally

held responsible for nurturing of Hindu civilization and verily no less in terms of its merits and significance.

Yamunothri the birth place of Yamuna

Yamunotri is the starting point of Yamuna River while actual source of Yamuna River lies in the Yamunothri Glacier at a height of approx 6387 meters near Bandarpunch peak which lies in the Mussoorie range of Lower Himalayas in the Uttarakashi district, Uttarakhand to the north of Haridwar. Yamuna River flows from Kalindi Parvat (hill) of the Bandarpunch which is the main water feeder to Yamuna River. Since it flows from Kalindi Parvat, Yamuna is also known as Kalindi.





Bandarpunch Mountain is named after the tail of Lord Hanuman. It is believed that Bandarpunch glaciers in Himalayas is the place where Lord Hanuman buries his burning tail that was set to fire during his visit to Lanka in search of Goddess Sita Devi.

The temple at Yamunothri is one of the holiest shrines dedicated to Goddess Yamuna the river Goddess and is considered as one of the Char-Dhams of Uttarakhand other three being Badari, Kedarnath and Gangothri. It is believed that a dip in Yamuna at Yamunothri would absolve one from sins.

Significance of Yamuna River

Yamuna River is very much associated with the legends of Lord Sri Krishna who was born and brought up in the vicinity of river Yamuna at Mathura, Gokul and Brindavana. It is the famous river on the banks of which Lord Sri Krishna had spent his childhood days. It is the river in which Lord Sri Krishna had suppressed (subdued) the pride of Kaliya a

poisonous King Cobra. It is the sacred river on the banks of which Lord and Sage Vedavyasa was born to his parents Sage Parashara and Sathyavathi. In Mahabharatha, Indraprastha the capital of Pandavas was situated on the banks of Yamuna which is considered as the modern city of Delhi.

It is said and believed that Yamunothri in Himalayas is the place where Lord Hanuman got the fire to his tail extinguished that was set to fire in during his visit to Lanka in search of Goddess Sita Devi. That's why the mountain range at the birth place of Yamuna is called Bandarpunch. Bandar means monkey and punch means tail.

Yamuna nadee (Theertha Prabandha by Sri VadiRjaru)

कालिन्दि त्वमधान्वितानपि सतः कृत्वा पवित्रात्मनो
गन्तुं नैव कदाऽपि मुञ्चसि तव भ्रातुर्निकेतं प्रति ।
किन्तु क्षीरपयोधिवासनिरतान् प्रीत्या करोष्याश्रितान्
स्तिंगधे भर्तरि कामिनीजनरुचिः तत्पक्ष एव हयलम् ॥

O kalindi! even if the people who take shelter in you are full of sins, you convert them into ones with pure hearts; you never allow them (the devotees) to go your brother's house; on the other hand, out of affection, you ensure they always reside in shvetadweepa that is in the ksheerasagara; it is indeed well known that when the husband has attachment towards his wife, the interest of women always remains towards him!

4. Yamuna River : The origin of Yamuna River is ten thousand feet above sea level, at a spot known as " Yamunotri " on the Himalayas. Yamunotri is 158 km. away from Dehradun. The water of the river is by and large cold. However, there are certain hot springs, which are used by yatris for bath and cooking. The Yamuna is also known as Kalindi. Yamuna is the daughter of Sun God, sister of Yama (God Of death) and wife of the Sea God.

Vadiraja explains the glory of the Yamuna river with in one Sloka.

Oh Yamuna ! you never send those
Who worship you to Yama, but instead send them
To the Ocean of milk the abode of Narayana,
And as a devoted wife, truly
You are partial to thy husband.

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Yamuna river is also one of the saptamahanadis of Bharatavarsha. It originates in a mountain known as kalinda. Hence it is known as kaalindi, as referred to by sri vadiraJa tirtha here. harivamsha narrates that yamuna and yamaraja were born as twins to surya and sanjna devi. The origin of yamuna river is known as yamunotri. It is about 100kms from Dehradun.

Famous pilgrim centers on the banks of Yamuna

Starting from Yamunotri Glacier, Yamuna river flows in the states of Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi before merging with river Ganges (Ganga) at sacred Triveni Sangam in Allahabad also known as Prayaga. Some of the famous pilgrim centers that have come up on the banks of river Yamuna are, Yamunothri the birth

place of Yamuna; Mathura the birth place of Lord Sri Krishna, Prayaga the Triveni Sangam at Allahabad apart from the famous historical places Delhi, and Agra.

Yamuna worship forms a part of Anantha Padmanabha Vratha during Bhadrapada Sukla Chaturdasi.

Karthika Sukla Dwiteeya is reckoned as Yama Dwiteeya the day YamaDharmaRaja visited his sister's house (Yamuna) and took meals at the hands of Yamuna Devi that is celebrated as Bhagini hasta bhojana. Since then, it has become a tradition on this day for brothers to take food in the house of their sisters and sisters in turn worship their brothers and pray for their longevity.

Chambal river is a tributary of river Yamuna taking birth in hills of Aaraavali, flows through Indore and merges with Yamuna.

Kshipra river is a tributary of Chambal which famously flows in one of the Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kshetras, Ujjain. It is also called by name Avanthi.

Apart from Chambal, Kaun (Karnavathi) and Betwa (Vethrapathi) are the other two noted tributaries of Yamuna.

Yamuna Pushkara

Yamuna Pushkara is the biggest festival/fair of river Yamuna that is celebrated when Jupiter (Brihaspathi) enters into Karkataka Raasi (Cancer sign) in the zodiac.

Sri Krishnaarpanamasthu

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देवानां च ऋषीणां च गुरुं काचन सत्रिभम्
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